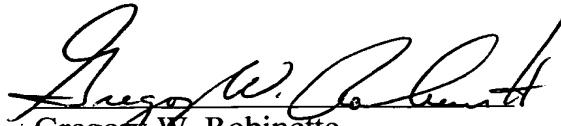


REMARKS

New independent Claim 23 defines the invention as a method forming a decorative surface feature on an article formed in a mold. The method includes providing a mold assembly comprising a first mold portion having a textured surface, and second mold portion, wherein the first and the second mold portions define a cavity. The first material is heated and introduced into the cavity. The mold cavity is then closed. A second material is introduced into the cavity subsequent to heating and introducing the first material into the cavity, such that the introduction of the second material into the cavity applies a force on the first material to both move the first material into contact with the textured surface of the first mold portion and also transfer an imprint of the textured surface to the first material, thereby forming the article having a decorative surface feature formed thereon.

The claimed invention is not shown or suggested in any of the art of record. Specifically, the Kato et al. reference discloses a method of transferring a grain pattern from an inner surface of a mold to a laminate. The grain pattern is first formed on the surface of the laminate material by drawing the laminate to the grain pattern of the inner surface of the mold by a vacuum. Subsequent to vacuum forming the grain pattern on surface of the laminate, molten thermoplastic material is injected into a space formed between a back surface of the laminate and the mold. The King et al. reference discloses a process for injection molding multi-layered articles. A film 14 is first stretched into a mold by a plunger 6. Molten polymer is then injected into the mold. Thus, neither the Kato et al. reference nor the King et al. reference shows or suggests the claimed step of introducing a second material into the cavity subsequent to heating and introducing the first material into the cavity, such that the introduction of the second material into the cavity applies a force on the first material to both move the first material into contact with the textured surface of the first mold portion and also transfer an imprint of the textured surface to the first material, thereby forming the article having a decorative surface feature formed thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory W. Robinette", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory W. Robinette

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